

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Resources Building

Room 1131, 11th Floor

Announcements – None to report

SWRCB Activities – The SWRCB's Strategic Workplan for the Bay-Delta is due in May. Numerous applications for water transfers have been filed, among them are 1) South Feather to south of Delta State Water Contractors (10 TAF), 2) South Sutter to SWC (10 TAF) and River Garden Farms (2 TAF)

Fisheries Status

(Winter-run Chinook) There has been a sharp decline in the escapement of winter-run on upstream tributaries, ocean conditions remain poor. At Red Bluff Diversion Dam have one of the lowest escapement losses – 1.58 million. There is also low salvage of winter-run at project pumps in south Delta, which correlates well with the low escapement estimates. To date, 1316 winter-run are estimated lost at pumps, which is about 3 times lower than the 16 year average there. We are pretty much done with the peak right now, further losses should taper off.

(Spring-run Chinook) Estimates are 10,571 for the combined Central Valley as a whole, this is also a downward trajectory in trend of numbers. The "take" at pumps uses late fall-run as a surrogate. "Take" has been below 0.5%

(Steelhead) The number on the American River is about 400, on the Feather it's about 200. "Take" at pumps is well under the 3,000 limit, currently at 880. There are a few more coming out of the San Joaquin River.

(Green Sturgeon) 1 last week at salvage facilities for a total of 2 for the year (juveniles).

(Delta smelt) Have been getting results from Kodiak Trawl # 4, the distribution of Delta smelt is mainly in the west Delta and in the Cache Slough area. The 20 mm supplemental survey is also on the DFG website.

(Longfin Smelt) Have been seeing juvenile longfin at pumps.

Work Group Updates

(VAMP) – VAMP began yesterday, flow at Vernalis is slowly rising toward the target flow. The first release of 2 groups of salmon is on the 28th or 29th of this month.

The fish will be acoustically tagged and released at Dos Rios and Durham Ferry sites. The target flow at Vernalis is 3200 cfs and the total project export rate is 1500 cfs. Flow at Vernalis now is 2921 cfs.

(*DAT*) Nothing to report.

(*WOMT*) – Mostly dealing with the OMR flow targets set for Delta smelt and longfin smelt in last month. Taking a break for now since VAMP has started.

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

(*CVP*) – Folsom @ 1,000 cfs, Goodwin @ 1350 cfs, 1 pump at Jones PP approx. 800 cfs, fderal share San Luis at 675 TAF

(*SWP*) – Oroville at 2500 cfs, Banks at 700 cfs, State share of San Luis at 875 TAF